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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,623	04/19/2001	Clifford Jack Ciesa	DN2001094	3590

7590

09/25/2003

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
1144 East Market Street, D/823
Akron, OH 44316-0001

EXAMINER

VARGOT, MATHIEU D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,623

Applicant(s)

CIESA et al.

Examiner

M. VARLOT

Group Art Unit

1732

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6 + 7 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5 + 9 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 4
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1732

1. Claims 1-3, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 is drafted as an independent claim and hence items such as "the chamber flow" and "the rim" lack antecedent basis. It is unclear whether claim 3 was intended as a dependent claim (due to the presence of "further comprises" at line 2) or as an independent claim (as apparently drafted). If the former, then language such as --of claim 1-- should be inserted at line 2 after "tires". Also, in claim 1, penultimate line, "reached" should be --reaches. For consistency, claim 5, line 2, "a" should be --the-- . Claim 9, lines 1-2, "and centrally directed" does not make sense -- should "and" be --are--?

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fike -367.

The applied reference discloses curing a tire (apparently) in a mold using a rim which seals the tire beads, inflating the tire and curing same. It is submitted that the interior of the tire as sealed by the rim constitutes the instant curing chamber. It is further submitted inherent that there must be additional mold pieces surrounding the inflated tire as it is cured, or otherwise there would be no shaping of the tire as it is cured, and hence a mold in combination with the rim and inflated tire

Art Unit: 1732

must also exist during the curing. Along the rim, pressure relief valve 24 would allow for depressurizing the mold, or more precisely the chamber within the tire, and the relief valve as depicted in Figures 3 and 4 points upwardly -- ie, orthogonal to the attachment of the tire to the rim. Hence, instant claim 3, as an independent claim, is submitted to have been met by Fike -367.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additionally cited art discloses pressure relief valves in tire curing operations. However, none of the art of record shows the instant frangible member on a central rim which acts as a relief valve upon attainment of a certain pressure above a set tire curing pressure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Vargot whose telephone number is 703 308-2621.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0661.

M. Vargot

September 17, 2003

M. Vargot
MATHIEU D. VARGOT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300

9/17/03